



Wild Notes

A Publication of the
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
And the Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge Inc

Spring 2004

Junior Duck Stamp Contest

by Molly Mehl, Public Use Specialist

For the past 10 years young artists have sent their art work of North American waterfowl to Necedah Refuge to compete for the Wisconsin Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show Title. The art pieces are judged in categories of age brackets. Each age bracket has a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, as well as honorable mentions. Every participating student receives a certificate. The Wisconsin Best of Show goes on to compete in the national contest in Washington DC, and the national winner's picture is made into a collectors' stamp.

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association sponsors the contest. This years judging is March

26. Check the next newsletter for a list of the winners. Stop by the Refuge Headquarters after March 26 to see these elaborate and im-

pressive pieces of art or call to find when the traveling display will be nearest you.



2003 Wisconsin Best of Show by Peter Diefenthaler



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A Few Fiscal Facts

by Molly Mehl, Public Use Specialist

Banking on Nature

By looking at just 15 refuges, the study "Banking on Nature", released in September 2003, calculated that the National Wildlife Refuge System generated about \$809 million in annual sales of recreation equipment, food, lodging, transportation

and other expenditures. Additionally, nearly 19,000 jobs were created. Each regional director has been asked to nominate as many as 15 refuges to participate in the follow-up study. Necedah requested to be considered.

Everyone wants to Explore Lakes, Trails, and Streams.

Juneau, Adams, Monroe, and other counties are coming together to make themselves known to tourists as

(Continued on page 2)

Special Points of Interest:

- Federal Junior Duck Contest March 26
- Newsletter Going on the Web
- Prescribed Fire Used as a Management tool
- Necedah Refuge Partners for Off-refuge work
- Friends Page
- 2004 Calendar of Events

Fiscal Facts continued

Streams Region" of Wisconsin. Necedah National Wildlife Refuge plays a star role in area tourism and continues to shine by participating in the development of the new Wisconsin tourist region.

By coming together and becoming an official "region" the area can easier attract and educate tourists. Visitors do not know or care about county lines, so the new regional group is not dividing tourism efforts by county lines either.

Because the group formed, they are able to compete for state funding support. This year, the "Lakes, Trails, and Streams Region" is applying for a \$20,000 planning grant. If the grant is awarded, Necedah Refuge will be highlighted as a destination point.

Revenue Cost Share

Larry Wargowsky, Refuge Manager of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge announced that checks totaling

\$147,904 were sent to the Townships of Cutler, Finley, Kingston, Necedah, and Remington during 2003. This amount represents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts in meeting its shared revenue obligations. Actual amounts received by each township are: Juneau County – Town of Necedah \$62,236, Town of Finley \$34,532, Town of Kingston \$32,733, Town of Cutler \$18,381; and Wood County – Town of Remington \$22.

This Newsletter Is Going to the Web by Molly Mehl, Public Use Specialist

The Newsletter mailing is popular. It is mailed to over 1,720 addresses. Multiply that by 37 cents per letter and you get \$636.40. Hum, that is one pretty penny coming out of the Refuge budget per newsletter mailing and we are facing significant budget cuts.

A better option is posting the newsletter on our webpage. There are benefits, beyond the postage costs, of having the newsletter on the web:

- 1) You can see color pictures,
- 2) You will get the news in a more timely manner (because we will skip the printing, folding, addressing, stamping time).

- 3) The newsletter will be a great addition to the webpage.

Here is what is going to happen:

The newsletter will be on the web*. If you would like an email notice sent to you telling you when a new newsletter is posted, please email the Refuge at nece-dah@fws.gov with the title "newsletter by email".

*All Friends members will continue to get their newsletters mailed to them as a hard copy unless the member calls or emails and requests to NOT receive a mailed copy. Receiving the newsletter has always been a Friends membership

benefit.

*Die-hard newsletter readers who still want a hard copy sent to them can continue to receive one by calling the Refuge and requesting to be on our list of people who want to continue to be mailed a hard copy. **Or better yet, stop by the Refuge office and pick up one.**

We apologize if this change is an inconvenience to you, however, it will save thousands of dollars in postage over one year.

Thank you for saving your tax dollars!

Hide Nor Hair by Molly Mehl, Public Use Specialist



If you cannot identify hide nor hair of wild furs you are not alone. Many visitors to the Refuge do not know the colorations and fur patterns of wild animals, never getting to see the animals up-close. The Refuge is looking for tanned winter hides and furs. The hides will go on display at Headquarters and will be "touchable".

If possible, two sets of hides are desired so one set could be loaned to schools. You can donate a hide by mailing it to the Refuge with a note. Thanks.



What do 457 animals and 668 plants have in common?

Answer: They are on the Endangered Species List.

Fire as a Resource Management Tool by Matt Plagenz, Refuge Prescribe Burn Specialist

the "Lakes, Trails and Each spring the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge conducts prescribed burns. The primary purpose of prescribed burning is to restore and maintain important wildlife habitat. Refuge fire staff works year round planning for the burns.

One of the activities conducted by Refuge staff is site preparation. Site preparation includes establishing quality fire breaks. The fire breaks make containing the fire easier. The work is usually completed by the seasonal fire technicians in late fall, after the growing season.

Another activity conducted before the prescribed fire season is writing burn plans. Writing the formal plans is a considerable undertaking. A burn plan has many elements to consider. Some elements of a burn plan are: resource objectives, fire prescription (air temperature and season), smoke hazard mitigations, firing techniques and sequences, and escape fire contingency actions.

Necedah Refuge currently uses fire as a primary tool to restore one of the most unique ecosystems in Wisconsin: Oak Savanna. Oak Savanna restoration sites are determined by soil composition. Sandy soils support savanna growth. The long term goal for Oak Savanna restoration at Necedah is to restore over 3,000 acres

through logging and prescribed burning.

You can visit Necedah Refuge and see for yourself this awesome restoration project. Some of the Oak Savanna restoration sites are easily accessible by vehicle and Refuge staff would be happy to show you on a map how to find them.



Wildlife Sightings at the Refuge by Molly Mehl, Public Use Specialist

The most exciting sightings are of fishers, which are new to the area. To get a good visual of a fisher, visit the Refuge Headquarters, where a new fisher mount is on display. The display was mounted by Walking Thunder Taxidermy of Wisconsin Rapids and donated to the Refuge by Friends members, Shirley and Glen Siferd. Thanks to Glen and Shirley for their generous

donation.

Other sightings include otters, bald eagles, golden eagles, red foxes, black bears, wolf tracks, white-tailed deer, owls, and lots of turkeys.

Winter is a good time to view wildlife tracks, so visit the refuge after a fresh snow.

Visit the Refuge this Month:

March: Spring Migration Starts

Watch the Junior Duck Judging

April: Relax on Earth Day, April 22

May: Try Bird Watching on International

Migratory Bird Day, May 10

June: Go Fishing!

In Central Wisconsin, we tend to associate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with terrestrial animals such as Karner blue butterflies, whooping cranes, and wolves. However, a look around the state reminds us that the Service has an important fisheries mission too. From coaster brook trout restoration at Whittlesey Creek NWR to paddlefish habitat projects at the Upper Mississippi NF&WR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is restoring declining fish populations. Closer to Necedah, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works to restore populations of lake sturgeon and brook trout, both conservation priority species, through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

One Necedah NWR fisheries project is Coles Creek in Monroe Co., which re-

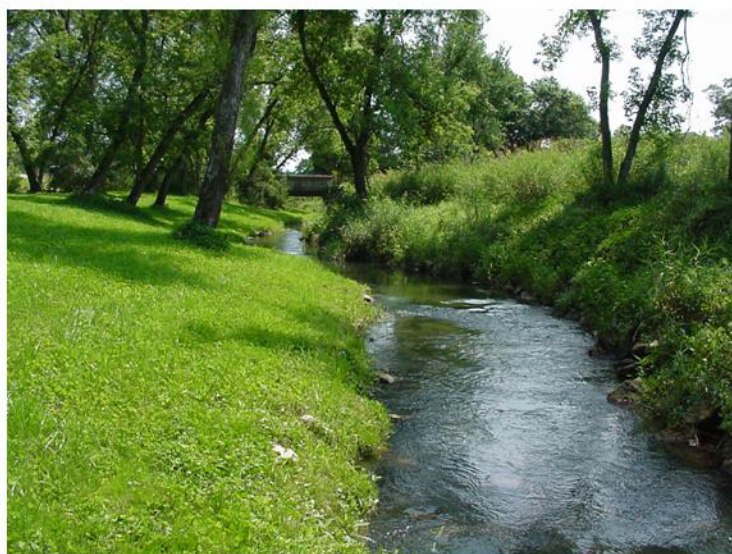
stored 5.6 miles of degraded native brook trout stream on private lands. Decades of poor land use throughout Coles Valley had transformed this once narrow, deep, clear, spring-fed creek into a wide, shallow, muddy waterway with highly eroded banks. This watershed project began with partnership efforts to reduce erosion and increase water infiltration in Coles Valley uplands, recharging the natural springs. Next, livestock were excluded from the creek banks. From 1999 to 2003, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program helped to narrow and deepen the creek, install fish habitat structures, and stabilize its banks. The watershed project efforts are paying off: Coles Creek summer flow rates have stabilized, water

quality has improved, and in 2002, Coles Creek was upgraded from a Class III to a Class I trout stream. Comprehensive stream surveys planned for 2005 will quantify the water quality improvements. As an added bonus, 18 of the 19 participating private landowners have granted easements to the Wisconsin DNR, providing permanent public access for trout fishing.

In addition to the landowners, project partners were the Monroe County Land Conservation Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wisconsin DNR, Sparta Rod and Gun Club, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Monroe County Justice Department.



Before: 1973 Hawk Road from the East



After: 2003 Hawk Road from the West

Only You Can Make It Happen by Molly Mehl, Public Use Specialist

The planning of an event like the Necedah Whooping Crane Festival takes a whole crew and a whole year. The Crane Fest is by far the largest event that the Necedah Refuge partakes in, reaching 2 to 4 thousand visitors in just one day.

You can contribute to the Refuge by volunteering and helping plan for the big day. Help is needed in setting-up: equipment, tents, chairs, and tables; staffing booths, hosting youth activities, finding and announcing speakers, con-

tacting crafters, selling tickets, and much more. For more information, please contact Molly Mehl at the Refuge at (608)565-2551 or Dave Arnold, Festival Chairman at (608) 565-2101

Friends Notes

by Glen & Shirley Siferd, Friends Board Members

Caucuses, primaries, platforms, campaign promises, speeches -- we've all been a little overwhelmed with election concerns in recent weeks. Through all the excitement and confusion, we will soon be asked to make our choices for various offices throughout the country.

In all of the many issues facing us in making those choices, those of you who consider yourselves to be friends and maybe even advocates for the

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge will want to decide carefully on the available candidates. Some will be more friendly to the refuge in terms of

funding and protecting it from encroachment. All of you will be concerned about water and air quality, preservation of wildlife areas and ongoing care for wetlands and other precious habitats.

With this in mind, we encourage you to choose carefully among the many candidates seeking your vote. Be sure

to cast your ballot for those who will share your love for the environment and who will protect it to the best of their abilities.

Remember how important one vote - yours - is. Use it wisely.

*Thanks to the Friends of the Refuge.
The Cabin fever Festival was deliciously
added to by the Friends Board who
provided drinks, hotdogs in beans. A warm
thanks to the friendly cooks of the Refuge!*

I want to Join the Friends Group! Membership Application

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

E-mail Address

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and mail them to:

Friends Group
Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
W 7996 20th Street West
Necedah, WI 54646

All contributions to the Friends Group are tax deductible

Student	\$10
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Contributor	\$100
Benefactor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000

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W7996 20th ST W
Necedah WI 54646

Phone: 608-565-2551
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Email: necedah@fws.gov

We're on the Web

[Http://midwest.fws.gov/Necedah](http://midwest.fws.gov/Necedah)

SPECIAL EVENTS – 2004

Feb 07	Cabin Fever Festival
Mar 26	Junior Duck Stamp Judging
Apr 14, 17 May 12, 15	Behind the Scenes Tour*
June 5	Free Fishing Day
Sept 18	Whooping Crane Festival
Oct 10-16	National Wildlife Refuge Week
Oct 15	Fall Night Hike

****Behind the Scenes Tour:***

Join the "Behind the Scenes" tour, a new tour offered this year, to view the marshes that are normally closed.

The tour will be caravan style and will meet at the Refuge Headquarters at 6 PM on April 14, 17, and May 12, 15.



Friends of Necedah

Board:

President: Charles Dvorak Sr.

Secretary: Jan Crosby

Treasurer: Tracy Allen

Board: LuAnn Rochester

Shirley Siferd

Glen Siferd

MISSION:

"To support and enhance the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area. To educate the public about the National Wildlife Refuge System's role in wildlife habitat protection. To foster public use and enjoyment of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge."